

City Manager's Letter

Mayor, Councilmembers and Residents of the City of Mesa:

I am pleased to present the City of Mesa's biennial budget forecast for FY's 2003/04 and 2004/05. The budgets were developed with a great deal of input and assistance from City staff, the Mesa City Council and members of Mesa's citizen advisory boards and committees.

The nation's lagging economy over the past several years has had a negative impact on the budgets of municipalities, along with county, state and federal agencies.

In response, over the past two years, the City began implementing cost-saving measures in an effort to preserve the wide array of high-quality services and programs Mesa residents enjoy. However, the state of the economy has truly contributed to the fact that this year's biennial budget process was one of the most challenging in Mesa's 125-year history.

The City's Executive Budget Plan outlines the biennial budgets for FY's 2003/04 and 2004/05 and highlights the organization's budget priorities.

Although several programs and services were reduced or eliminated, this budget continues to emphasize and fund public safety services, utility services, transportation improvements and a wide range of parks, recreation and library services. It also contains funding for important capital projects such as the expansion of the Arizona Museum for Youth and construction of the new Mesa Arts Center.

Despite the difficulties of balancing a budget with a significant shortfall, Mesa residents should know that the City of Mesa strives to provide the highest level of service possible. Additionally, City employees are committed to ensuring Mesa will continue to be a high-quality community in which all residents can be proud to live.

Sincerely,



Mike Hutchinson
City Manager